

Approved For Washington

Dulles and Fulbright Feud or Truce?

By JAMES RESTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31. — The rise of Senator Fulbright of Arkansas to the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee can be an event of considerable significance, depending on how the Senator and Secretary of State Dulles approach one another from now on.

In the past couple of years, these two highly intelligent men have established a relationship roughly equivalent to the chemical reaction of dogs and cats. When Mr. Dulles talks, Mr. Fulbright growls, and when the Senator talks, the Secretary arches his back.

They respect one another; they have a close mutual friend and colleague, Deputy Under Secretary of State Douglas Dillon, who lives across the street from Mr. Fulbright; yet they have never managed to talk out their differences, as Mr. Dulles did with three other former chairmen of the Foreign Relations Committee — Senators Arthur Vandenberg, Tom Connally and Walter George.

This attitude of unresolved skepticism between powerful men in Washington goes beyond the personal relations of these two and has hampered the conduct of United States foreign policy in the last few years.

It does not stem from partisan considerations; it is not even the result of basic differences over the objectives of American foreign policy. It is the result of differences over method and style and approach to foreign policy problems, and, above all, to the failure to get together and explain in private precisely what these differences are.

The Value of Informality

In the years immediately after the last war, the White House and the State Department were in close contact with the experts on foreign policy in the Foreign Relations Committees of Congress, in the Washington embassies, and in the universities of the nation.

This produced a great deal of highly valuable informal exchange of views. Mr. Dulles himself, as President Truman's Special Ambassador, was an invaluable link between the executive branch of the Government and such influential Senators as Mr. Vandenberg and the

late Eugene D. Mullikin of Colorado. In the last few years, however, everything has become more formal. When Mr. Dulles talks to an Ambassador at the State Department now, there is another official in the room committing everything to paper. Official and critic seldom meet privately and express their differences. Mr. Dulles is almost the only contact with the President on foreign policy matters under the White House "chain of command" system.

Accordingly, while everything is now tidier than before, the channels of informal communication have been seriously narrowed. The President sees the same officials on the job and the same personal friends off the job, and this has opened up a gap between the President and Mr. Dulles on the one hand and their critics in Congress, in the embassies and in the universities on the other.

A New Opportunity

The resignation of Senator Green of Rhode Island as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee has provided an opportunity to correct this situation, at least so far as Mr. Dulles and Mr. Fulbright are concerned.

As a widely traveled student of foreign affairs and a former Rhodes Scholar and university president, Senator Fulbright is close to the embassies and the universities. He has been frustrated and even a little sour in his secondary role under the 91-year-old Chairman Green, but has now a new responsibility and opportunity to create a better atmosphere.

Secretary Dulles, meanwhile, has wanted to establish better relations with the new generation of men coming up on the Foreign Relations Committee — Fulbright, Mansfield of Montana, Kennedy of Massachusetts, Humphrey of Minnesota, Gore of Tennessee, and Church of Idaho — but it has been difficult to establish any new way of doing so without seeming to be discourteous to Senator Green.

Now both the opportunity and the need are apparent. Mr. Dulles has made clear that he wishes to remain as Secretary until the end of the Eisenhower second term.

The Democrats will control the Senate, 64-34, during this period, which promises to be full of lively negotiations with Moscow over the future of Europe.

The question, therefore, is whether Mr. Dulles and Mr. Fulbright will use the new situation to improve matters, or allow the State Department and the Foreign Relations Committee to drift further into mutual distrust.

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